

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND,

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, the 4th of May, 1727.

Collected and Extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.



EDINBURGH:

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LAND, and sold at the said Mr. Davidson's Shop, 1727.

THE PRINTING
A C T S

OF THE
GENERAL REMEDY

OF THE
CHURCH

OF
SCOTLAND

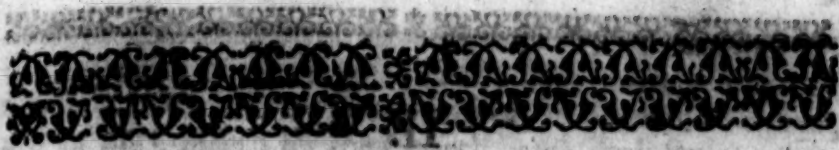
CONVICTED BY PARLIAMENT IN THE YEAR 1737

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THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY of
the Church of **SCOTLAND**,

Holden and begun at *Edinburgh* upon *Thursday*
the 4th Day of *May* 1727, and ending the 19th
Day of that same Month in the said Year.

I.
*The KING's Commission to James Earl
of Finlater and Seafield produced, and
ordered to be recorded.*

At Edinburgh, 4th May, 1727. Sess. 1.



THE General Assembly of the Ministers and
Ruling Elders of this National Church being
conveened and constituted, there was pro-
duced to them by the Right Honourable
James Earl of Finlater and Seafield, His Ma-
jesty's Commission, sealed with the Seal ap-
pointed by the Treaty of Union betwixt the two Kingdoms
of *Scotland* and *England*, to be kept and used in *Scotland*,
in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, of the same Tenor
with the Commission granted by his Majesty to the fore-
said Earl in the Year 1724, appointing him His Majesty's
High Commissioner and Representative in this National
Assembly: Which Commission being publicly read, with
all due Honour and Respect, the General Assembly order-
ed the same to be recorded in their Registers, *ad futuram
rei memoriam.*

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to
the General Assembly, presented to
them by His Majesty's Commissioner,
May 4. 1727. Sess. I.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and Well-beloved; We greet you well. It is with the greatest Pleasure and Satisfaction, that We reflect upon the wise and prudent Behaviour of your former Assemblies; and as we doubt not, but you come together with the same Zeal for the Honour and Glory of God, for the Advancement of true Religion and Piety, the preventing the Growth of Popery, and the suppressing of Vice and Irreligion; we do most willingly Countenance this your present Meeting by our Approbation and Royal Authority.

WE have had so many Proofs of the Loyalty and Affection of the Church established by Law in Scotland to Our Person and Government, and of its steady Adherence to the Succession in Our Family, and to the Protestant Interest in general; that you may always depend upon Our firm Resolution to maintain the said Church in the full Enjoyment of all its just Rights and Privileges.

You may also be fully assured of Our Readiness to concur in whatever may tend to the promoting of its Peace and Prosperity, not doubting but you, on your Part, will be equally careful to do all that in you lies, which may conduce to Our Service, and to the Welfare of Our People, and that your Debates and Proceedings will be conducted with that Spirit of Concord and Brotherly Love, which so much become this Venerable Assembly, carefully avoiding whatever may create Unhappy Divisions among you, as the most effectual Means that the Enemies to our Happiness and Tranquillity could make use of, to disappoint and frustrate the good Ends for which you are conven'd.

THE

General Assembly 1727.

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THE Experience you have already had of the Abilities and Integrity of our Right Trusty and Entirely Beloved Cousin and Counsellor James Earl of Findlater and Seafield, and of his Concern for the Church, and Zeal for our Service, will, we doubt not, render the Choice very agreeable to you, which we have made of him, to represent our Royal Person in this Assembly; and we are perswaded, that his Diligence and Application in the Discharge of so important a Trust, will be assisted and encouraged by the Unanimity and Dispatch with which you will go through the several Affairs that are proper for your Consideration. And so we bid you heartily farewell. Given at our Court at St. James's the Eighteenth Day of April, One thousand seven hundred and twenty seven, in the Thirteenth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

TOWNSHEND.

Directed thus,

To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

Edinburgh, May 6th, 1727, Self. 3.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE humbly beg leave to acknowledge, with Hearts full of Joy and Thankfulness, the Honour of your Majesty's gracious Letter to us, approving the Behaviour of former Assemblies, and expressing your Majesty's Confidence of our Zeal for the Honour and Glory of God, for the Advancement of True Religion and Piety, the preventing the Growth of Popery, and the suppressing of Vice and Irreligion; Duties to which Your Majesty's favourable Expectations from us, do greatly oblige and excite us, and the

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more, that our Meeting is countenanced by Your Majesty's Approbation and Royal Authority. We have in the great Honour and Happiness of this Church, that the Testimonies of our Loyalty and Affection to your Majesty's Royal Person and Government, and our steady Adherence to the Succession in Your Royal Family, and to the Protestant Interest in general, have been acceptable to Your Majesty; and it fills our Hearts with Joy and quickens our Zeal for Your Majesty's Service, that in Your great Goodness, you are graciously pleased to renew the Assurances of Your firm Resolution, to maintain this Church in the full Enjoyment of all its just Rights and Privileges, and readily to condescend in whatever may tend to the promoting of its Peace and Prosperity; upon which your Royal Assurances we entirely depend: And we should be altogether inexcusable, to be wanting on our Part, to do all that in us lies, for your Majesty's Service, and the Welfare of Your People, or should we not conduct ourselves with that Spirit of Concord, and Brotherly Love, which becomes us; and we judge, we are bound to watch strictly against all Divisions amongst our selves, which may tend to disappoint the good Ends for which we are convened, by affording Your Majesty's Enemies any Handle to disturb the Happiness and Tranquillity of Your Majesty's auspicious Administration, which is, under God, our great Safety.

Our Experience of the Earl of *Finlater* and *Seafield's* Abilities and Integrity, and of his Concern for the Church, and Zeal for your Majesty's Service, renders your Majesty's Choice of him, to represent your Royal Person in the Assembly, most obliging and acceptable to us, and the full Confidence we have of his Diligence and Application in the Discharge of his high and important Trust, obliges us to give him the best Assistance and Encouragement, upon our Part, by Unanimity and Dispatch in going through the Affairs proper for our Consideration.

We have received from your Majesty's Commissioner your most pious and bountiful Donation for this Year, to be employed, in maintaining Itinerant Preachers and Catechists, in Places where Ignorance and Popery prevail, which we accept with the most profound Respect and Thankfulness, and shall use our utmost Care in employing it for the pious Ends, to which it is design'd, and account for it as Your Majesty's Royal Warrant directs.

May it please Your Majesty,

The present critical Juncture of Affairs, which has moved others of Your Loyal Subjects, to address Your

Majesty, expressing their Duty and Loyalty, upon occasion of formidable Alliances, and Designs fram'd against Your Majesty, and the Happiness of Your People, under Your wise Administration, call us to embrace with the greatest Cheerfulness this Opportunity to testify our utter Abhorrence of all the Designs and Attempts of your open or secret Enemies against your Royal Person, and the happy Constitution of your Government, which we Account our great Security under God, for all that's dear to us, as Men and Christians. The early humble Address of the Commission of the last Assembly to your Majesty, expressing the Duty and Loyalty of this Church, we heartily approve and concur with, being deeply concerned, that our Gracious God, who has eminently appeared in behalf of your Majesty, and blessed your People with His Preservation hitherto, may now, when you are attacked with open Hostilities, bless your Councils and markably, and enable your Majesty to carry on a War, on to procure a safe and lasting Peace to Europe, for the Relief of our oppressed Protestant Brethren Abroad, and Security of the valuable Rights of your own Subjects; and that he may defeat all Designs of restless and deluded Abettors of the Desperate Cause of a Popish Pretender, who, should they succeed in their wicked Attempts, which God forbid, nothing could remain, for your loyal and dutiful Subjects, to expect but utter Ruin.

It is therefore with the most ardent Desires, and in the greatest Sincerity of our Hearts, that we pray the most High G. O. D. long to preserve Your Majesty's precious Life; to bless Your Majesty, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales and all their Royal Offspring, with the best of Heaven's Blessings; and after a long and happy Reign upon Earth, to crown Your Majesty with immortal Glory. These are the Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most Faithful, most Obedient, and most Loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in
this National Assembly of
the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our Presence, in our Name,
and as our Appointment, by

WILL. HAMILTON, Moderator.

IV.

*Commission to some Ministers and Ruling-Elders, for discussing diverse Affairs referred to them.**Edinburgh, May 16th, 1727, Sess. 15.*


 His General Assembly taking to their Consideration, that there are diverse and weighty Affairs which they cannot overtake, do nominate, commissionate and appoint their Reverend Brethren Mr. *William Hamilton* Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh, their Moderator, Masters *Allan Logan* at Culross, *Samuel Charters* at Innerkeithing, *John Gib* at Cleish, *John Cleghorn* at Weemys, *James Henry* at Kinghorn, *Patrick Clow* at Lesly, *George Gillespie* at Stramiglo, *William Miles* at Moonzie, *William Smibert* at Kilmeny, *George Anderson* at Dunbog, *Joseph Drew* Principal of St. Leonard's College in St. Andrews, *Alexander Anderson* at St. Andrews, *James Nairn* at Anstruther Easter, *William Cunningham* at Kemback, *James Haddow* Principal of the New College of St. Andrews, *David Thomson* at Meegle, *James Mitchel* at Glenilay, *Thomas Aiton* at Alyth, *William Wingate* at Kinnettles, *James Ogilvie* at Glames, *Thomas Donaldson* at Liff, *Thomas Beveridge* at Benvie, *George Fleming* at Lundie, *John Fergusson* at Aberbrothwick, *William Dall* at Barie, *John Coupar* at Montrose, *John Row* at Lathnot, *John Johnston* at Brichen, *John Thomson* at Marytoun, *Anthony Dove* at Fettercairn, *William Trail* at Benholm, *Thomas Blackwell* Principal of the College of New Aberdeen, *David Anderson* Professor of Divinity in the King's College of Aberdeen, *James Chalmers* at Aberdeen, *John Osburn* there, *Alexander Toash* at Tarland, *James Robertson* at Glenmuck, *Lewis Reid* at Strachan, *James Gordon* at Alford, *George Moir* at Towie, *Walter Syme* at Tillinessell, *Gilbert Gerard* at Chapel, *Robert Abercrombie* at Lesly, *John Lumisden* at Montkigie, *John Mulligen* at Methlick, *John Forbes* at Slains, *William Lesly* at St. Fergus, *James Lesly* at Crimond, *Alexander Auchinleck* at Frasersburgh, *George Johnston* at Kingedward, *James Stewart* at Alva, *Peter Darling* at Boyndie, *Alexander Philp* at Deskford, *John Gilchrist*

Gilchrist at Kieth, *John Scrogie* at Huntly, *George Gordon* at Boharm, *David Dalrymple* at Dundorcas, *Joseph Sanderfon* at Elgin, *Alexander Irving* at St. Andrews in Murray, *Alexander Shaw* at Edinkilly, *John Squire* at Forreß, *Francis Grant* at Duthell, *George Grant* at Kirk-michael, *Daniel M'Kenzie* at Petty, *Farquhard Bethune* at Croy, *George Gordon* at Cromarty, *Robert Finlay* at Rosemarkne, *John Bayne* at Dingwall, *James Fraser* at Alneß, *George Monro* at Nig, *Hector Fraser* at Eddertoun, *Thomas Fraser* at Abertarph, *John Skeldoch* at Kilmanivaig, *Daniel M'Aulay* at Braccadale, *Archibald M'Queen* at Snizort, *Daniel Morison* at Stornavoy, *John M'Lean* at North-Uist, *Aneas Sage* at Lochcarron, *Archibald Bannatyne* at Lochbroom, *Robert Kirk* at Dornoch, *Walter Ross* at Crieich, *George Brodie* at Edrachillis, *William Rose* at Kildonan, *William M'Beath* at Olig, *Alexander Brodie* at Reay, *Thomas Baikie* at Kirkwall, *John Nisbet* at Sandwick, *Andrew Grahame* at Rowfay, *John Duncan* at Bressay, *Thomas Waldie* at Lerwick, *John M'Cle-
ran* at Edinburch, *William Mitchell* there, *Samuel Semple* at Liberton, *Walter Allan* at Collingtoun, *James Smith* at Cramond, *John Hepburn* at Edinburch, *William Wisbart* Principal of the University of Edinburch, *James Houston*, at Kirkliston, *John Lookup* at Midcalder, *John Brown* at Abercorn, *Robert Hunter* at Livingston, *James Wilson* at Symingtoun, *Thomas Henderson* at Skirling, *John Wallace* at Drummelzier, *Stephen Paton* at Newlands, *John Hay* at Peebles, *Patrick Camming* at Ormiston, *David Hut-
cheson* at Dalkieth, *William Robertson* at Borthwick, *James Alston* at Disleton, *John Mutter* at Tranent, *William Ham-
ilton* at Boltoun, *George Turnbull* at Tininghame, *Henry Shaw* at Cockburnspath, *William Home* at Fogo, *Thomas Turnbull* at Greenlaw, *Robert Park* at Foulden, *George Hume* at Chirnside, *Robert Bryden* at Coldinghame, *James Ramsay* at Kelfo, *Walter Douglas* at Linton, *John Ritchie* at Minto, *Charles Telfer* at Hawick, *Robert Ricletoun* at Habkirk, *Henry Hume* at Channelkirk, *Thomas Pitcairn* at Lauder, *William Hunter* at Lilliesleaf, *Adam Miln* at Melroß, *William Armstrong* at Cannobie, *David Balmain* at Westerkirk, *George Young* at Hutton, *James Armstrong* at Ruthwell, *Robert Wallace* at Moffat, *Robert Lauson* at Closeburn, *Alexander Bayne* at Kier, *James Guthrie* at Irongray, *Alexander Robertson* at Tinwald, *Patrick Lin* at Drumfries, *William Boyd* at Dalray, *William M'Kie* at Balmagie, *Andrew Boyd* at Twynham, *John M'Caul* at Whithorn, *Alexander Anderson* at Sorbie, *William Wilson* at Inch, *John Dickson* at Oldluce, *John Hunter* at Air, *John Stiel* at Oldcumnock, *William Coats* at Dalmelling-
C
rout,

toun, *James Laurie* at Kirkmichael, *George Reid* at Ochiltree, *Andrew Cuming* at Largs, *John Adam* at Kilbride, *Hugh Fauside* at Newmills, *John Miller* at Nielston, *Robert Woodrow* at Eastwood, *Robert Mitchel* at Paislay, *John Muirhead* at Cambusnetham, *John Currie* at Old-Monkland, *John Wiseman* at New-Monkland, *Thomas Linnen* at Lismahago, *John Orr* at Lanerk, *James Hepburn* at Crawfordmuir, *John Stirling* Principal of the College of Glasgow, *Andrew Tair* at Carmunnock, *John Hamilton* at Glasgow, *William Love* at Cathcart, *Robert Wallace* at Badernock, *James Livingston* at Strablene, *Archibald Sydes* at Dumbartoun, *Walter Campbell* at Dunoon, *Alexander McKay* at Kilfinan, *James Gessie* at Inverary, *Niel Campbell* at Kilchrenan, *Archibald McLean* at Kilfinchen, *James Campbell* at Kilbranden, *Dougald Bannatyne* at Kilmore, *John Campbell* at Kilvarrow, *William Chalmers* at Kinloch, *John Gow* at Cargill, *George Frier* at Lethendy, *James Fisher* at Kincleavin, *Thomas Black* at Perth, *William Moncrief* at Methven, *Andrew Darling* at Kinnoul, *Alexander Moncrief* at Abernethy, *John Drummond* at Crieff, *Andrew Brugh* at Maderty, *William Hally* at Muthill, *Archibald Napier* at Kilmadock, *Thomas Turner* at Tulliallan, *Charles Muir* at Stirling, and *Henry Lindsay* at Bothkennar, Ministers; The Most Honourable *John Marquis* of Tweeddale, the Right Honourable *David* Earl of Buchan, *Thomas* Earl of Haddintoun, *Charles* Earl of Lauderdale, *James* Earl of Finlater and Seafeld, *Alexander* Earl of Marchmont, *James* Earl of Hyndford, *David* Earl of Glasgow, *Archibald* Earl of Hay, *William* Lord Ross, *James* Lord Torphichen, *George* Lord Reay, *Sir Hugh Dalrymple* of North-Berwick Baronet Lord President of the Session, *Duncan Forbes Esq;* Lord Advocate, *Adam Cockburn* of Ormiston Lord Justice-Clerk, *Sir John Maxwell* of Pollock Baronet, *Mr. James Erskine* of Grange, *Mr. James Hamilton* of Pancaitland, *Sir Andrew Hume* of Kimmerghame, *Sir Walter Pringle* of Newhall, *Sir Gilbert Elliot* of Minto Baronet, and *Mr. Hugh Dalrymple* of Drumore, Eight of the Senators of the College of Justice, *Sir John Clerk* of Pennycook Baronet one of the Barons of his Majesty's Exchequer, *Mr. John Campbell* of Mamore, *Mr. John Sinclair* Advocate, *Colonel William Dalrymple* of Glenmore, *Colonel John Erskine* of Carnock, *Mr. Charles Erskine* of Barjarg His Majesty's Solicitor, *Doctor Robert Hay* Physician, *Mr. Robert Hay* of Naughton, *Mr. James McGill* of Rankiellor, *Sir Robert Anstruther* of Balcaskie, *Mr. James Duncan* Professor of Philosophy in the University of St. Andrews, *Patrick Drummond* of Gairdrum, *George Nicol* Merchant in Forfar, *Colonel Patrick Ogilvie* of Inchmartine,

tine, Alexander Farrier Provost of Dundee, *James Doig*
Baillie in Aberbrothwick, *Robert White* Provost of Bri-
 chen, *Alexander Arbuthnot* of Knox, *Arthur Forbes* of Echt
 Elder, *Robert Stewart* late Provost of Aberdeen, *George*
Gordon Professor of the Oriental Languages in the King's
 College of Aberdeen, *George Fordyce* Provost of Aberdeen,
John Forbes of Balfuig, *Mr. Alexander Irving* of Saphock
 Advocate, *Mr. Alexander Garden* of Troup Advocate,
John Forbes of Gask, *Robert Stewart* Provost of Bamf, *Mr.*
Patrick Grant of Easter Elchies Advocate, *Joseph Bro-*
die of Milntoun, *James Innes* Provost of Elgin, *Robert*
Logan Baillie in Forreß, *James Grant* of That-Ilk, *Tho-*
mas Alves Baillie in Inverness, *John Hossack* Baillie there,
Alexander Gordon of Airdoch, *Halbert Monro* of Coull,
William Ross Baillie in Tain, *Colonel Robert Monro* of
 Fowles, *Duncan Forbes* Baillie in Fortrose, *William Ross*
 of Aldie, *William McCleod* of Hammir, *Hector M'Lean* of
 Coll, *Captain David Ross* of Daan, *Sir John Inglis* of
 Cramond Baronet, *John Wightman* of Maulsly, *Archibald*
M'Antay late Dean of Gild in Edinburgh, *George Drum-*
mond Esq; Lord Provost of Edinburgh, *William Can-*
 Deacon Conveener there, *Mr. George Dundas* of That-Ilk
 Advocate, *Alexander Hamilton* of Inverwick, *Mr. Alex-*
ander Menzies of Coulterallas Advocate, *William Murray*
 of Spittlehaugh, *Mr. Robert Dundas* of Arnistoun Advo-
 cate, *Charles Brown* of Colstoun, *Mr. Thomas Menzies* of
 Gladstones Advocate, *Sir Robert Dalrymple* of Castleroun
 Advocate, *Sir William Baird* of Newbyth Baronet, *Mr.*
William Haliburton in Leitholm, *Sir John Stewart* of Allan-
 bank Baronet, *Mr. George Scot* in Kelso, *Archibald Dou-*
glas of Cavers, *Mr. Charles Binning* of Pilmore Advocate,
Sir Walter Riddell of That-Ilk Baronet, *Sir William John-*
ston of Westerhall Baronet, *Mr. Robert Foord* Baillie of
 Moffat, *Alexander Fergusson* of Craigdarroch, *James Car-*
rie Provost of Drumfries, *Colonel William Maxwell* of Gar-
 doness, *Mr. Robert Grahame* in Monigaff, *John Gray* Bail-
 lie in Stranrawer, *Mr. James Boswell* of Auchinleck Ad-
 vocate, *Captain John Campbell* of Wellwood, *Mr. Willi-*
am Verner of Ardier, *Alexander Cochran* of Craig-
 muir, *Alexander Finlayson* of Nielstonside, *Mr. Alexander*
Hamilton Younger of Pancairland, *Mr. James Baillie* of
 Hardingeoun, *John Stark* Provost of Glasgow, *James*
Pedie of Rochill, *Mr. George Smoller* of Inglestoun Advo-
 cate, *Sir James Campbell* of Ardkinglals, *Alexander M'Mil-*
lan of Dunmore, *Sir Duncan Campbell* of Lochnell, *John*
Campbell late Provost of Edinburgh, *James Nimmo* Mer-
 chant and Baillie there, *Hugh Montgomery* Provost of
 Campbeltoun, *Alexander Robertson* of Straloch, *Patrick*

Teaman of Eastmiln, Mr. Robert Craigie of Glendoig Advocate, Robert Robertson Provost of Perth, Mr. George Miller Clerk there, Sir James Campbell of Aberuchil Baronet, Mr. Colin Campbell Younger thereof, and Mr. Alexander Johnston of Kirkland, Ruling Elders; To be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the Effects aftermentioned, with Power to the said Commissioners, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty one of the said Commissioners, whereof Twenty one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at *Edinburgh*, the first free Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock Forenoon, and afterwards the Second *Wednesdays* of *August*, *November* and *March* next to come, and often, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with Power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator. And likewise the General Assembly fully impowers and authorises their said Commissioners, or their *Quorum* above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly; and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly, and to advert to the Interests of the Church on every Occasion, that the Church, and present Establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Providing always, that this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs, or Processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal Concern to, or Influence upon the whole Church. And 'tis hereby appointed, that no private Processes be determined, except at the Four stated Diets, and what shall be determined at one Diet of the said Commission, with relation to private Causes, shall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in Force till disapproved by the General Assembly. And the General Assembly renews the Instructions given by the General Assembly *anno* One thousand seven hundred and seventeen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners above-named, and to be observed by them in all Points, as if the same were specially here insert: And that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of Books and Pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of Opinions of whatever Kind, inconsistent with our Confession of Faith; and that the Recommenders of such Books or Pamphlets, or the Errors therein-contained, whether by Word, Writ or Print, be called before the said

said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any References and Appeals that shall be made to them from Synods in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen such Affairs for the General Assembly. Likewise to take Care that the Impressions of the Holy Scriptures, the Confession of Faith and Catechisms, and such Books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government thereof, be correct, and to give Directions about Printing the same. They are also appointed, at their first Meeting, to take under Consideration all Representations of the Growth of Popery, within the Bounds of this National Church, and of Meeting-houses not authorised by Law, which have been brought up to this and former Assemblies, or Commissions thereof, or that may be further offer'd to this Commission, and to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy and speedy Redress; and the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other Matters, than what are committed and referred to them, as above-mentioned; And in all their Actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitutions of this National Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the same: Declaring that in and for all their Actings they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see Cause. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed. And Members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission, and Absents therefrom ordered to be noticed, according to the Seventeenth Act of the General Assembly anno One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, and other Presbyteries within Twelve Miles thereof, to meet any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meeting of this Commission; and such of the Members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required all of them to give punctual Attendance on the Diets thereof: And Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have Four or more Members on the Commission, are to take Care that at least two of them attend each Diet of the same.

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**Commission to some Ministers and Ruling
Elders for Reformation of the High-
lands and Islands of Scotland, and for
Management of the King's Bounty for
that End.**

Edinburgh, May 17th, 1727, Sess. 17.

TH E General Assembly taking into their Consideration, that it has pleased the King, one of his Royal Bounty, again this Year to grant the Sum of One thousand Pound Sterling, to encourage Itinerant Preachers and Catechists, to go to the Highlands and Islands, for instructing the People in the Principles of the true Religion, and the Assembly being desirous to carry on the Reformation in the foresaid Places, and to prosecute the Design of his Majesty's Grant, do hereby continue Mr. John Dundas of Philpstown Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Sum, in the Terms of the Sixth Act of the General Assembly anno One thousand seven hundred and twenty five; and likewise, do nominate, commissionate and appoint, the Reverend Mr. William Hamilton Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh their Moderator, Mr. William Wisbart Principal of the said University, Masters John McClaren at Edinburgh, William Mitchell there, Samuel Semple at Liberton, Walter Alden at Collingtoun, James Smith at Cramond, John Hepburn at Edinburgh, Allan Logan at Culrois, James Hadash Principal of the New College of St. Andrews, John Comar at Montrose, Thomas Blackwell Principal of the College of New Aberdeen, George Chalmers Principal of the King's College at Aberdeen, James Robertson at Glenmuick, John Glibrist at Kieith, Farquhar Bethune at Croy, John Bayne at Dingwall, Daniel McAulay at Bracadale, Robert Kirk at Dornoch, John Flint at Edinburgh, James Hart there, James Grierson there, William Miller there, Niel M'Vicar at Westkirk, James Craig at Edinburgh, John Brand at Borrowstounness, James Houston at Kirkliston, James Alston at Dirletoun, James Ramsay at

at Kelfo, *Alexander Robertson* at Tinwald, *William Boyd* at Dalry, *Robert Woodrow* at Eastwood, *John Hamilton* at Glasgow, *Walter Campbell* at Dunoon, *Thomas Black* at Perth, *Lauchlan M'Intosh* at Errol, *James Walker* at Canongate, *James Nisbet* at Edinburgh, *William Gushart* there, *John Mathison* there, *James Bannantyne* there, *Matthew Wood* there, *Matthew Crawford* Professor of Ecclesiastick History in the University of Edinburgh, *William Brown* at Edinburgh, and *John Walkie* at Uphall, Ministers; the Right Honourable *George Lord Reay*, *Sir Hugh Dalrymple* of North-Berwick Baronet Lord President of the Session, *Duncan Forbes Esq;* Lord Advocate, *Adam Cockburn* of Ormiston Lord Justice Clerk, *Mr. James Erskine* of Grange, *Mr. James Hamilton* of Pancaitland, *Sir Walter Pringle* of Newhall, *Sir Gilbert Elliot* of Minto Baronet, and *Mr. Hugh Dalrymple* of Drummore, Six of the Senators of the College of Justice, *Sir John Clark* of Pennycook Baronet one of the Barons of his Majesty's Exchequer, *Mr. Patrick Campbell* of Monzie Advocate, *Charles Erskine Esq;* his Majesty's Solicitor, *George Drummond Esq;* Lord Provost of Edinburgh, *Mr. John Sinclair* Advocate, *Colonel John Erskine* of Carnock, *Sir James Campbell* of Aberuchil Baronet, *Sir James Stewart* of Goodtrees Baronet, *Sir John Inglis* of Cramond Baronet, *Sir Duncan Campbell* of Lochmell, *Mr. Robert Dundas* of Arnistoun Advocate, *Mr. James Boswell* of Auchinleck Advocate, *Mr. Patrick Grant* of Easter Elchies Advocate, *Mr. Robert Craigie* of Glendoig Advocate, *Mr. Alexander Hamilton* Younger of Pancaitland, *John Campbell* late Lord Provost of Edinburgh, *John Wrightman* of Maullly, *James Nimmo* Bailie in Edinburgh, *Archibald M'Aulay* late Dean of Gild there, *Mr. Colin Campbell* Younger of Aberuchill, *Mr. James Baillie* of Hardington, *John Osburn* late Bailie of Edinburgh, *Alexander Arbuthnot* of Knox, and *Mr. Halbert Monro* of Coull, Ruling Elders; To be a Committee for disposing upon the foresaid Royal Bounty, for the Ends mentioned in the foresaid Royal Grant, and for carrying on a Reformation in the foresaid Places, according to the Powers granted by the foresaid Sixth Act of the General Assembly held in the Year One thousand seven hundred and twenty five, also in the Sixth Act of the late General Assembly, and which Powers are hereby renewed. And further, this General Assembly do instruct and empower the said Committee, as they shall see Cause, to apply to his Majesty, and those in the Government, or any Magistrate, for Assistance in carrying on a Reformation, and the Interest of true Religion in the foresaid Places; and the said

Committee are appointed to keep a Correspondence with the Presbyteries, Protestant Heritors, Ministers, Preachers, and Catechists in the above-mentioned Places, and to do all that is competent for them towards the Encouragement of Ministers and Protestants in these Countries; and the said Committee are enjoined in their Management, to have a particular Regard to the Regulations and Resolutions of the late Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and to use their Endeavours to make the same effectual, and to report their Diligence to the next General Assembly.

VI.

*Act concerning the Printing of Papers in
Processes brought before the Judicatories
of this Church.*

Edinburgh, May 18th, 1727. Sess. 18.

THE General Assembly finding that the Act of Assembly inhibiting the Printing of Papers in Processes before Church Judicatories has not had the desired Effect; Therefore they hereby enact and declare, that in case Parties concerned in Processes brought before the Judicatories of this Church, shall think fit to print States of their Case, or other Papers relating to the said Processes, such Printing is permitted only under the Provisions, and with the Restrictions following, viz. That a written Copy of such printed Papers be given in to the Clerk of the Judicatory subscribed by the Party or his Commissioner, and that the Printed Copies have the Name of the Party or his Commissioner subjoined thereto; to the End, that if any Facts that are false, or not instructed, be therein insert, or any indecent Expressions be used, the Subscriber may be censured according to the Demerit of the Fault: And the Assembly do hereby strictly discharge Parties to dispense, or the Members of the Church Judicatories to regard any printed Paper concerning Matters depending before them, not subscribed in the Terms of this Act.

VII. 47

VII.

Act concerning the Duties and Qualifications of Ruling Elders.

Edinburgh, May 18th, 1727, Sess. 18.

THE General Assembly finding that the Acts of
 the Assembly made with respect to the Duties and
 Qualifications of Elders are not so duly observed
 as they ought to be; do therefore enjoin the
 several Presbyteries of this Church to have a strict regard
 to what is required as to the Duties and Qualifications of
 Elders by the Ninth Act of the General Assembly held in
 the Year One thousand seven hundred and twenty two,
 especially in chusing of Elders to represent them in Gene-
 ral Assemblies, and in attesting the Commissions of such
 as are chosen either by themselves, by Universities, or by
 Royal Burghs.

VIII.

Act concerning the admitting of Persons to the Lord's Table.

Edinburgh, May 18th, 1727. Sess. 18.

THE General Assembly having considered an
 Overture from the Synod of *Merse and Teviot-
 dale*, about Admission of Persons to the Lord's
 Table, they strictly enjoin the Observation of
 the Act February Seventh, anno One thousand
 six hundred and forty five, § 12. Of the Opinion of the
 Committee, for keeping greater Uniformity in this Kirk,
 in the Practice and Observation of the Directory in some
 Points of publick Worship; and leaves it to the several
 Church Judicatories to give Directions in Cases of this
 Nature, as the same do occur.

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IX. Act

IX.

*Act and Recommendation in Favour of the
Society in Scotland for propagating
Christian Knowledge.**Edinburgh, May 18th, 1727. post merid. Sess. 19.*

TH E General Assembly finding from a Representation laid before them by the Committee of the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian Knowledge, in Name, and by Order of the General Meeting thereof, That it is now above Eighteen Years since this Society was first erected by Letters Patent from the Sovereign, upon an Application from this Church, and ever since, the utmost Diligence has been applied to make it answer the great End for which it was obtained, to promote Christian Knowledge and Virtue, to suppress Error and Vice, and to preserve our happy Constitution, both in Church and State; and by the Blessing of God their Endeavours have proved successful in attaining some of these Ends, as is sufficiently attested from many Parts in this Nation, by Reports from Presbyteries, Ministers and Gentlemen their Correspondents, which have been read to them at their Meetings, and heard with the greatest Pleasure and Satisfaction. That in several Places, not only great Numbers of Children, but Persons far advanced in Years crowded to their Schools to learn Reading, Writing, Arithmetick and Church Musick, who never probably could have had any Measure of Knowledge, had it not been for the Society's Schools, and few of them left their Schools till they had learned the Assembly's Catechism by Heart. By the Benefit of these Schools, and the Masters Diligence, together with the supplying them with useful Books, such as *Bibles, New Testaments, Confessions of Faith, Vincent's Catechism, and Guthrie's Tryal of a Saving Interest*, and others; many of these poor People have been happily delivered from their Ignorance; the Schoolmasters have been useful in remote Islands and large Parishes by reading the Scriptures, Praying and Singing of Psalms, and Catechising the People on the Lord's Day in the Places of publick Worship, by the Minister's Allowance, when he himself is employed in other Places of his Parish: The Dis-

Discipline used in these Schools has had great Influence upon the Morals of the People, some Children of Popish Parents have been trained up in the Principles of the true Protestant Religion, and the *English* Language is become more universal. The remarkable Advantages and Successes that have attended these Schools, have encouraged the Society, being also thereto excited by the pressing Recommendations of the Committee of Assembly for Reformation of the Highlands, to settle more Schools: By this Addition in these Places where they were so necessary, their Number increased to Eighty, the Salaries of these Schoolmasters and other Incidents amounted to the Sum of 526 *l.* 18 *s.* 10 *d.* *Sterling* in one Year, and the Charges of Books, Carriage, &c. that Year came to near 200 *l.* *Sterling*, besides the great Expence of maintaining hopeful Youths of more than ordinary Capacity, having the *Irish* Language, who were not in a Condition to maintain themselves, and whose Parents and nearest Relations became bound, that these Boys should serve as Schoolmasters, and some of them are now teaching Schools for smaler Salaries, than others either would or could, to the Satisfaction of all concerned.

THE Society upon a Review of the State of their Funds, found that the Income would by no Means balance their Charge, and they being tyed down by their Patent, not to encroach upon their Stock, were forced to sink some of their Schools in Places where they were much wanted; the Society had indeed flattered themselves with more Donations, and that Presbyteries would have sent up their Collections according to the General Assembly's Recommendation, but both these have failed in great Measure.

UPON this the Society enquired how the Recommendations of the General Assembly and Commission, for Collections and Donations had been obeyed, and found that severals had contributed very liberally, whose Names are recorded as Promoters of this noble Design, and to whose Bounty its Success is much owing; but on the other Hand it was not a little discouraging, that it appeared from the Society's Books, that some Synods, excepting a very few Ministers and Parishes, and not a few Presbyteries, have never sent up their Collections to the Society's Treasurer, and 'tis even suspected that the Assembly's Recommendations have not been so much as published to the People. The Society in the Year 1715, 16, 17, and 1718 gave in to the General Assembly a particular State of their Affairs, as also to the Commission in the Year 1723; and that every particular Person might be satisfied,

they printed their Letters Patent, with an Account of their Rise, Constitution and Management, as also Lists of their Schools, bearing the Dates of Erection, with the Names of Presbyteries, Parishes and Places where each School was settled, and Names of Schoolmasters, Number of Scholars, both Boys and Girls. Letters have been frequently written to Presbyteries to satisfy them about the Society's Management, and also to put them in Mind of Deficients, and because few or no Returns came to these Letters, the Society in *March* last by their Preses wrote to Synods to enquire into the Diligence of their Presbyteries about Collections, and to acquaint them that a List of Deficients was to be laid before this Venerable Assembly; but the Society were averse to the doing of any Thing which might give Offence, or put to the Blush any who might be in the least Deficient in promoting so good a Design, and yet are inclined to contribute, and therefore chused rather to delay the giving a particular Condescendance of Deficients, that they might have a new Opportunity of contributing, and new Intrants, and others transported to better Benefices, might have an Opportunity of sending their Donations up with the Collections. That there were also several who since the Assembly's Recommendation are grown up, and others who have either come to Estates, or are preferred to Places of Profit, who, 'twas hoped would not be wanting to promote that pious and charitable Undertaking, nor to mention those who have already given something, and have promised to give more liberally. And the present Situation of Affairs seemed to call every true Christian, as God gives them Ability and Opportunity, to concern themselves in this Matter; Our Gracious Sovereign does countenance the Design, and has given liberally out of his own Royal Bounty for maintaining Preachers and Catechists in those Places, which very much need the same; our Ancestors never had such a Price put in their Hands, and it should be improved for advancing the Interests of Religion.

THE General Assembly having much at Heart the Success and Advancement of the pious and charitable Design of the said Society, and being much concerned that their most useful and painful Endeavours should meet with so much Obstruction from the Forgetfulness or Backwardness of some, and Slothfulness of others, who are otherwise well and charitably disposed, in not contributing to the Encouragement of the foresaid good Work; do therefore most seriously and earnestly recommend to all the Presbyteries within this Church, That they diligently enquire at Kirk-sessions and Ministers within their Bounds how
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the Recommendations of former Assemblies with Respect to Donations, Subscriptions and Collections for the above pious and laudable Design, have been obey'd; And the Assembly orders such Ministers as have not collected forthwith to do the same, and to use their Endeavours to persuade charitable Persons to contribute something towards the buying of Books and maintaining of poor Scholars; and the General Assembly does appoint every Presbytery to enjoin the several Kirk-lessons within their Bounds to give a particular Account to them what has been collected for the End fore-said in their Parishes, since the Year 1709, and that betwixt and the Term of *Martinmas* next to come; And the Assembly Ordains every Presbytery to keep distinct Minutes of their Proceedings in this Matter until full Reports are made to them from all their Parishes, and then to transmit the said Reports to the Anniversary General Meeting of the said Society the first *Thursday* of *January* next, and that they send therewith a List of Subscribers, who have not yet paid in their Money. And the General Assembly does likewise hereby recommend to the several Synods within this national Church, that they call Presbyteries to an Account of their Diligence in this Matter, and that they report an Account of their own Diligence therein to the next General Assembly. And lastly, The Assembly appoints this their Act and Recommendation to be printed, and Copies thereof to be sent to the several Parishes in *Scotland*, and that the same be read from the Pulpits, immediately after Divine Worship in the Forenoon, upon the first Lord's Day of *August* next.

X.

Act and Commission of this Assembly for preserving Purity of Doctrine, and concerning Mr. John Simson.

Edinburgh, May 18th 1727. post Merid. Sess. 19.

***** HE General Assembly considering, That it is not practicable for them to overtake what yet remains of the Process laid before them, from the Reports of the last Assembly's Committee for Purity of Doctrine and the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, concerning

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cerning Mr. John Simson Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow, in such a Manner, as the Variety of the Matter, and great Importance thereof, and also the clearing and vindicating of Divine Truths require; and yet that it is fit that the supreme Judicatory of this Church only should give a final Determination therein; did therefore agree that the same be delayed till the next General Assembly. And in order to the further preparing and ripening this whole Affair, did appoint the Persons after-mentioned, viz. Mr. William Hamilton Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh their Moderator, Masters James Haddon Principal of the New College of St. Andrews, William Wilschart Principal of the College of Edinburgh, George Chalmers Principal of the King's College of Aberdeen, Thomas Blackwell Principal of the College of New Aberdeen, David Anderson Professor of Divinity in the King's College of Aberdeen, Matthew Crawford Professor of Ecclesiastick History in the University of Edinburgh, William Mitchell at Edinburgh, James Ramsay at Kelfo, Allan Logan at Culross, Thomas Black at Perth, Thomas Linning at Lesmahago, William McGeorge at Penrynock, John Hamilton at Glasgow, Samuel Semple at Liberton, James Mercer at Aberdalgie, Robert Wodrow at Eastwood, James Smith at Cramond, James Bannantyne at Edinburgh, James Craig there, John Brand at Borrowstonness, William Miller at Edinburgh, Alexander Anderson at St. Andrews, John Mathison at Edinburgh, John Scot at Glasgow, and Alexander Robertson at Trinvale Ministers; The Right Honourable Adam Cockburn of Ormiston Lord Justice-Clerk, Mr. James Erskine of Grange, Mr. James Hamilton of Pancaitland, and Mr. Hugh Dalrymple of Drummorie, four of the Senators of the College of Justice, George Drummond Esq; Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Mr. Robert Dundas of Arnistoun Advocate, Colonel John Erskine of Carnock, and Mr. James Boswell of Auchinleck Advocate Ruling Elders; to be a Committee, whereof thirteen to be a *Quorum*, and nine always to be Ministers; and that their first Meeting shall be in the Old Church of Edinburgh, upon Monday the Twenty second Instant, at Nine of the Clock in the Forenoon, and their subsequent stated Meetings to be upon Tuesday, before each quarterly Meeting of the Commission of this General Assembly, in the same Place, at Four of the Clock in the Afternoon, with Power to them to choose their own Moderator and Clerk, and to adjourn themselves to such Times and Places as they shall see Cause: And the Assembly hereby earnestly obrests all the Members of the said Committee punctually to attend, as they shall be

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accountable to the next General Assembly. And it is hereby declared, that any Ministers of the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, who shall attend the Meetings of this Committee, shall be Members thereof, tho' not of the above Nomination. And the General Assembly gives full Power to the said Committee to proceed upon the Articles in the Process, both as to the Libel and Queries, and what has followed thereupon, not judged by this Assembly, and upon what else is contained in the Act of the last Assembly for preserving Purity of Doctrine, which the Presbytery of *Glasgow* and former Committee could not overtake. And that they proceed in the whole hereby committed to them, conform to the Powers and Directions of that Act, and *usque ad sententiam*; but shall not pass a Sentence either absolving or condemning Mr. *Simson*, but report their Diligence to the next General Assembly: All being reserved to their Judgment. And it is recommended to the Presbytery of *Glasgow* to be assistant to the Committee as they shall be required by them. And Mr. *Simson* is appointed to attend upon the said Committee, when called by them, and upon the next General Assembly, when and where they shall happen to meet. And the General Assembly, in the *Interim*, on Account of the Articles in the Libel charged on Mr. *Simson*, which have been found relevant and proven, judged he ought to be suspended; likewise they hereby suspend him from Teaching and Preaching till the Meeting of the next General Assembly.

Follows the Act of the General Assembly held in the Year 1726, referred to in the foresaid Act, *viz.* At *Edinburgh*, 17th May, 1726. The General Assembly considering that several Presbyteries have instructed their Commissioners to propose that Enquiry be made into the Grounds of some Reports of unsound Doctrine, concerning the Persons of the Blessed Trinity, being taught at *Glasgow*, and that the Committee for Instructions, having called their Brethren Commissioners from the Presbytery of *Glasgow* to give them an Account what they knew about these Reports, and what they had done about the same? These Brethren answered, that upon some Surmises of Mr. *John Simson* Professor of Divinity in *Glasgow* his having taught erroneous Doctrine, particularly with Respect to the Blessed Trinity, the Presbytery of *Glasgow* had sent two of their Number to converse him thereupon, that he had sent to the Presbytery a Letter, owning that there were such Reports, but that they were false and calumnious, and giving an Account of what he said he taught upon that Article,

and that the Presbytery had appointed a Committee of their Number to consider his said Letter, but that their Committee had not yet made Report to the Presbytery; and the General Assembly being zealously concerned for the Preservation of the Purity of Doctrine in this Church, and for preventing the Entry and spreading of any Error, especially in such a weighty and fundamental Article. Do therefore recommend to, and appoint the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, to proceed with all Diligence in their Enquiry into Mr. *Simson's* Opinions concerning the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and particularly as to the Passages and Expressions relative thereto, contained in his Letter to them, or other Letters or Papers written by him, and also that they make Enquiry into what he hath taught or vented concerning the Trinity, and also how he has obey'd the Injunctions of the General Assembly in *anno* one thousand seven hundred and seventeen, as to the Points which they had then prohibited him to teach. And further, if they shall see Ground to suspect him to be unsound in any other Article of our Confession of Faith, they shall likewise make Enquiry into his Opinion and Sentiments concerning the same; and for the Help and Assistance of the said Presbytery in these Matters, the General Assembly do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Mr. *William Mitchell* one of the Ministers of *Edinburgh*, Masters *James Haddon* Principal of the new College of *St. Andrews*, *Allan Logan* at *Culross*, *William Wisbart* Principal of the University of *Edinburgh*, *William Hamilton* Professor of Divinity there, *James Craig* at *Edinburgh*, *James Bannatyne* there, *James Smith* at *Cramond*, *James Alston* at *Dirleton*, *William McGeorge* at *Pennycuik*, *John Brand* at *Borrowstonness*, *Michael Potter* at *Kippen*, *John Hunter* at *Air*, *Hugh Fauside* at *Loudoun*, *Robert Woodrow* at *Eastwood*, *Thomas Linnen* at *Lismahago*, *John Currie* at *Old Monkland*, and *James Bayne* at *Bonhill* Ministers, the Right Honourable Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of *Northberwick* Lord President of the Session, *Adam Cockburn* of *Ormistoun* Lord Justice Clerk, Mr. *James Erskine* of *Grange*, Mr. *James Hamilton* of *Pancaitland*, Sir *Walter Pringle* of *Newhall* Senators of the College of Justice, Sir *James Stewart* of *Goodtrees* Baronet, and Mr. *Robert Dundas* of *Arnistoun* younger Ruling Elders, to be a select Committee, and Thirteen of them to be a *Quorum*, whereof nine are always to be Ministers, and appoints their first Meeting to be in the Old-Church-Isle of *Edinburgh*, upon the next Day after the dissolving of this present Assembly, at nine of the Clock in the Forenoon, and that their subsequent stated Meetings be upon the *Tuesdays* before each ordinary Meeting of the Commission of

of the General Assembly, at four of the Clock in the Afternoon, with full Power to them to chuse their own Moderator and Clerk; That they give Advice and Direction in these Affairs to the Presbytery as they shall be applied to for the same, and that the Presbytery send an Account of the Steps of their Procedure to the several Meetings of this Committee, that are or shall be afterwards appointed, that they may give Advice and Direction as the Case shall require; That the Moderator of the Committee shall correspond with the Presbytery, and he is hereby impowered, to call Meetings of the said Committee *pro re nata* as he shall be advised by the said Presbytery, or as Occasion shall require: And the Assembly hereby gives full Power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such Times and Places, as they shall see Cause; and also to meet and join with the Presbytery in the Trial of the Affair recommended to them: But neither Committee nor Presbytery, jointly nor separately, shall pass a Judgment either absolving or condemning Mr. *Simson*, but shall only prepare this Affair by all proper Ways of Enquiry, and proceed *usque ad sententiam*, and then report their Diligence to the next General Assembly. Yet if Mr. *Simson* shall refuse or decline to answer Questions that shall be proposed to him by the said Presbytery or Committee, and conform to the Direction of this Act, or if he shall give such Answers, or behave himself with Relation to the Premises in such Manner, as that it shall appear to them to be unsafe to the Church of God, that he continue to teach or preach, in any of these Cases, the Presbytery, or Presbytery and Committee, are impowered to suspend him till the next Meeting of the General Assembly. And the General Assembly appoint, that the select Committee, at their Meeting in *March* next, shall order an Abstract of their Procedure to be sent to the several Synods within this Church; and that in all their Actings, the Presbytery and Committee be careful to proceed according to the Word of God, the Confession of Faith, and Larger and Shorter Catechisms of this Church founded thereupon, and they are not to insist upon any Articles not contained therein.

XI.

Edinburgh, May 19th, 1727. Sess. ult.

**To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty,
The humble ADDRESS of the General
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.**

May it please Your Majesty,

Our Majesty having been graciously pleased on many Occasions to express your Royal Confidence, in our Loyalty and Duty to Your Majesty's sacred Person and Government, and our hearty Affection and Zeal for the Protestant Succession in Your Royal Family, and Your firm Resolution to maintain the Presbyterian Government of this Church; and having recommended to us the promoting Religion and Piety, and using our best Endeavours to prevent the Growth of Popery, Ignorance and Immorality; as we have the greatest Encouragement, we are thereby laid under the strongest Ties to apply our selves with the utmost Diligence to the accomplishing of those Pious Ends.

This from our sincere Desire faithfully to answer this great Trust, that we now crave Leave most humbly to represent to Your Majesty, that the Papists, especially in the Highlands, and Islands, and Northern Parts of this Country, continue still to diffuse their corrupt and pernicious Doctrines among Your Subjects; their Bishops and Priests taking upon them to say Mass publicly, and execute other Parts of their Superstitious Worship, and even to train up great Numbers of Youth at Schools, in a most open Manner, in manifest Contempt and Defiance of Your Majesty's Laws, disowning them, as established by unlawful Authority, to which no Manner of Obedience is due, and instilling into the People an Opinion, contrary to the Rules of the Gospel, and destructive of Society and good Order, that under no less than the Pain of Damnation, they are bound to oppose them, and to do every Thing

Thing which may contribute to sap and undermine their Foundations, and maintaining that nothing can be more meritorious than to propagate these impious Maxims by all Means whatsoever, for a more full Account of this, we beg leave to refer to former Memorials, particularly to one in November 1725, from the Commission of the General Assembly laid before the Lords Justices in Your Majesty's Absence.

WE reckon our selves also obliged humbly to inform Your Majesty, That the Nonjuring pretended Protestant Bishops, and these who are put in Orders by them, restlessly endeavour to sow the Seeds of Disaffection to the present happy Establishment, in Your Royal Person and Family, especially this last Year, both in City and Country, and in every Thing that tends to this, they unite in Measures with professed Papists. Their Preachers do not only forbear to pray expressly for Your Majesty, but on the contrary they pray in Terms, by which their Hearers understand that none else can be meant but the Pretender. They take every Opportunity to insinuate into their Minds, that they are oppressed under Your Majesty's Administration, and can have no Prospect of Redress, but from his Successor. By these Means their Followers entertain favourable Impressions of Popery, and are the more easily perverted to it, concerning which we have sent to your Secretary of State a particular Memorial.

WITH the greatest Thankfulness, we acknowledge Your Majesty's Pious and Princely Care to prevent the Growth of Popery, and to promote the Reformed Religion; it remains only that your Subjects should follow Your Royal Example, that all Persons in publick Stations, and more particularly Inferior Judges should conform to Your Royal Intentions, lay themselves out towards a vigorous Execution of the Laws, which the well-affected among them cannot but incline to, and would probably effectuate, were they furnished with proper Funds, necessary for defraying the Charges thereof.

WE presume therefore, with all Submission, to offer these Matters to Your Royal Consideration, and humbly pray that such effectual Measures may be taken against these growing Evils above mentioned, as to Your Majesty, in your consummate Wisdom, shall seem fit.

THAT GOD may long preserve Your Majesty for the Good of all your People, the maintaining of the true Protestant Religion, and the Protection and Comfort of all the Churches of Christ; that he may direct Your Councils, and prosper Your Arms against all Your Enemies, and that

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a Protestant in Your Royal Family, may always sit on the Throne, shall be the earnest and constant Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in the National Assembly of the Church of Scotland,

Signed in our Name, and at our Appointment, by

WIL. HAMILTON, Moderator.

XII.

An Act concerning the Licensing of Probationers for the Holy Ministry, and Students of Divinity.

Edinburgh, May 19th, 1727. Session.

THE General Assembly finding it needful, now when the Number of Probationers is so great, to take all due Care that no Persons be entred on Trials for the Holy Ministry, but with all due Caution and Deliberation; Do therefore enjoin the strict Observation of all former Acts of Assembly made with respect to the entring of Students upon Trials for the End foreaid. And further, they do appoint and ordain, that when any Presbytery, who is about to enter a Person upon Trials, shall receive a Letter from another Presbytery, shewing their Dissatisfaction with the Person to be entred, and giving Grounds for the same, the said Person shall not be licensed, until the Synod give their Directions in that Matter, unless the above-mentioned Presbytery, who shew'd their Dissatisfaction, do afterwards signify their Consent, that the said Trials should go on. And the General Assembly appoints Presbyteries who shall receive such Letters about Students from any other Presbytery, to write

write a Return to the said Letters with the first Post after their Meeting. And the Assembly likewise appoints, that when any young Man comes to wait upon the Profession of Divinity in any University, he shall bring along with him a Testimonial from the Minister of the Parish from whence he comes; and when he leaves the Profession, he shall also take with him, beside the Professor's Testificate, a Testimonial from the Minister of that Parish in which he resided when he attended the Profession.

XIII.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, May 19th, 1727. Sess. ult.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held at *Edinburgh*, upon the First Thursday of May next to come, One thousand seven hundred and twenty eight Years.

This General Assembly was concluded with Prayer, singing of the cxxxiii. Psalm throughout, and pronouncing the Blessing.

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

Jo. DUNDE'S Ch. Eccl. Scot.



T A B L E
 OF THE
Printed Acts of the General Assembly
held in the Year 1727.

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AB

ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTS of the General Assembly of the
Church of Scotland, held in the Year
1727, which are not here printed.



F **T** **H** **R** Sermon by Mr. *William Mitchel* one
of the Ministers of *Edinburgh*, Moderator to
the former Assembly, the Ministers and Rul-
ing Elders, Members of this Assembly, did
conveen, and Mr. *William Hamilton* Profes-
sor of Divinity in the University of *Edin-*
burgh was chosen Moderator, *May 4th, 1727, Sess. 1.*
The King's Commission to the Earl of *Finlater* and *Sea-*
field, to represent his Majesty in this Assembly. *Ibid.*
His Grace his Majesty's Commissioner's Speech at the
Opening of the Assembly. *Ibid.*
The Moderator's Return to the Commissioner's Speech.
Ibid.
The Lord Commissioner having given in to the Assembly
his Majesty's Letter of Gift of One thousand Pounds
Sterling for this Year, towards reforming the High-
lands, the same was read, and ordered to be recorded.
Ibid.
A Committee named to draw an Answer to his Majesty's
Gracious Letter, and appointed to take Notice with
Thankfulness of his Majesty's Bounty towards reform-
ing the Highlands and Islands. *Ibid.*
A Committee for Overtures appointed. *Ibid.*
A Committee for Bills, References and Appeals. *Ibid.*
A Committee appointed to examine the Commissions given
to Members of this Assembly, to censure Absents, name
Ministers to preach before his Majesty's Commissioner,
and to receive in the Lists of Probationers and Students
of Divinity, in order to their being recorded, and to
bring in their Report as to Commissions, first to the
Committee for Overtures; and all Letters of Excuse
for Absence of Members were ordered to be given in
to the said Committee. *Ibid.*
A Diet appointed for Prayer. *Ibid.*
A Diet is spent in Prayer, *May 5th, Sess. 2.*
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Ministers are named to preach before the King's Commissioner upon the next Lord's Day, and Sabbath come Sevensnight. *Ibid.*

Some new Commissions produced, and Additions made to Committees, *May 6. Sess. 3.*

An Answer to his Majesty's Letter is unanimously approved, and subscribed by the Moderator: And the Lord Commissioner undertakes to transmit it to the King under his Cover, and a Copy thereof is ordered to be sent to the Principal Secretaries of State. *Ibid.*

A Committee of Persons out of each Synod is appointed to revise the Register of the Commission of the late Assembly, to audite the Procurator and Agent's Accounts, consider the State of the Church's publick Money, and prepare Overtures about the same, agreeable to the Act 7th *Assen.* 1711, and Act 8th 1719, and to that End all Petitions and other Claims for any Share of the publick Money were ordered to be laid before them. And the said Committee is also appointed to prepare any Overtures and References made by the late Commission to this Assembly; but they were desired to discourse with the Moderator, or any of the Members of the Commission, upon the Remarks on the Book, before they bring in the same to the Assembly, that nothing but what is material may be offered to them. *Ibid.*

The Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine offered their Report; and the Members from the Presbytery of *Glasgow* showed that the Extract of their Proceedings against Professor *Simson* was likewise ready to be laid before the Assembly; and a Committee is named to receive the said Report and Extract, and to pitch out such Parts of them as contain the Substance of the Trial, but Prejudice to Professor *Simson* or any Member, to call for the reading of such other Parts of the said Extract, as they shall condescend upon. *Ibid.*

A Committee is appointed to receive in from the Commissioners from the several Presbyteries, their Synods and Presbyteries Instructions to them, or any Overtures they have to offer from them, and to class the Matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures therefrom to the Assembly; and also to receive in any Accounts that shall be offered to them of the State of the Church in the North, the Highlands and Islands, particularly concerning the Growth of Popery and Superstition, and consider the same, and prepare Overtures for suppressing and preventing thereof; and likewise to receive from the Visitors of the Commission-Book the Returns
sent

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sent from Synods and Presbyteries to the late Commission's Letters, and consider the same, and prepare Overtures therefrom; but they were ordered to bring in their Report first to the Committee for Overtures, that they may fully prepare the same for the Assembly; and all Brethren who had any such Instructions or Overtures, were advertised to give them in to the Committee at their first Meeting, and to attend them at all their subsequent Meetings, and confer with them upon the Heads thereof, when they come to consider the same.

Ibid.

Committees were appointed to revise the Registers of the Actings of the Synods of *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Aberdeen*, *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, *Galloway*, *Argyll*, and *Perth* and *Stirling*: But the Synod Books of *Fife*, *Murray*, *Glenelg*, *Ross*, *Caithness*, *Orkney*, *Drumfries*, and *Glasgow* and *Air*, not being brought to the Assembly, they resolved to enquire into the Reasons of that Neglect, when they come to examine the other Books. *Ibid.*

The Receivers of the Books are made Conveeners of the several Committees, and they are enjoined in their going through the Books, to have a special Regard to the Rules set down in the Acts of Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Committee for revising Commissions having made their Report, the whole Commissions produced were sustained, and Letters were appointed to be written to the several Synods, within whose Bounds the Presbyteries, whose Commissions are wanting or defective, do ly, to call the Presbyteries, who have sent no Commissions, to an Account for their Neglect, and to all the Presbyteries, acquainting them how their Commissioners do attend the Assembly and Committees thereof; and especially to Presbyteries whose Commissions are defective, informing them of their Defects, and enjoining the strict Observation in Time coming of the Acts of Assembly made, with Relation to sending Commissioners to Assemblies. *Ibid.*

An Appeal of the Parish of *Dunning* and Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, against the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, for their refusing to transport Mr. *John Couper* Minister at *Montrose*, from the said Town and Parish to the fore-said Parish of *Dunning*, is brought in, and delayed to *Monday*. A Preference being always given to Professor *Simson's* Affair. *Ibid.*

An Appeal by the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, against the Sentence of the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, in a Process brought before them, against *Thomas Grant* Wright

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Wright in *Canongate*, for the Scandal of Adultery, with one *Helen Scot*; by which Sentence, the Synod reverled the Presbytery's Determination in that Affair, finding Ground to censure the said *Thomas Grant*, and the said *Thomas's* Appeal from that Part of the said Synod's Sentence, which remits to the foresaid Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, to make up, and cause to be read out before the Congregation of *Canongate*, a Narrative of the said Process are moved; and 'tis resolved that they shall be taken in immediately after the Appeal of *Dunning*, Preference being always given to Professor *Simson's* Case. *Ibid.*

A Representation from the Synod of *Aberdeen*, of the irregular Practices of the pretended Bishop *Gatherer* and his Adherents, within their Bounds, is brought in, and referred to a Committee named for that Affair, and the Brethren from *Aberdeen* are advertised to attend the same. *Ibid.*

A Reference from the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright*, of the Case of Mr. *William McKie* Minister at *Balmaghie*, and the Petition of the said Mr. *McKie*, setting forth the Hardships he labours under, by Means of the deposed Mr. *John McMillan* and others, and an Act of the Synod of *Galloway* concurring with the said Petition, are brought in, and referred to the Committee for the Affair of the Synod of *Aberdeen*. *Ibid.*

An Appeal of some of the Parishoners of *Kirkmichael*, from the Sentence of the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, affirming the Judgment of the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, whereby they approved of a Call given to Mr. *Robert Robertson* Probationer, by some of the Heritors, Elders and People of the said Parish, to be their Minister, is tabled, and it is resolved that the same shall be proceeded in next after the Case of *Thomas Grant*, with a Preference always to Professor *Simson's* Affair. *Ibid.*

Some new Commissions produced, and Additions made to Committees, *May 8th. Sess. 4th.*

The Register of the Actings and Proceedings of the Committee of the late Assembly, appointed to manage his Majesty's Bounty, towards the Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*, together with the Account of their Depurpements of the said Bounty, are laid before the Assembly, and remitted to the Committee for the Commission-Book and publick Accounts, to be examined by them. *Ibid.*

The Committee for Professor *Simson's* Affair made their Report, and the Assembly proceeded to the reading of the Papers in that Cause, and the Extract of the Presbytery of *Glasgow's* Proceedings against the Professor, is

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is read unto the fiftieth Page, also that Presbytery's Letter to the Committee for Purity of Doctrine, dated *November 2d, 1726*, and likewise the Professor's Letter to the said Committee, of the Date the *7th of November* last, in the Order of the said Extract, and further reading is delayed until To-morrow Forenoon, and the Professor is allowed a Copy of such Papers as he had not seen. *Ibid.*

The Extract of the Presbytery of *Glasgow's* Proceedings in Professor *Simson's* Case is read, from the fiftieth to the ninety fifth Page, and further Proceeding delayed until the Afternoon, *May 9th, Sess. 5th. antemeridien.*

The Extract of the Presbytery of *Glasgow* in the Professor's Case is read to the 124 Page, and the Professor is allowed to *Thursday* next in the Afternoon, to make Answers to the Presbytery's Remarks upon his Answers to their References, to the Passages of his Letter, and Articles of the *Confession of Faith and Catechisms*, to which they judged them oppose, and their Remarks upon his Representation concerning the Queries put to him, *May 9th, post merid. Sess. 6th.*

Mr. *John Comar* is continued in the Exercise of his Ministry at *Montrose.* *Ibid.*

The planting of the Parish of *Dunning* is referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*

Thomas Grant's Conscience being dealt with, to confess if he was guilty of Adultery with *Helen Scot*, he denies it absolutely, and a Committee is appointed to draw up a Narrative of his Case, to be intimated in the Congregation of *Canongate*, *May 10th, Sess. 7th.*

A Representation from the Synod of *Murray*, being but just now brought to Town, the Clerk was allowed to receive it, and the Committee for Bills to consider it, *May 11th. ante merid. Sess. 8th.*

Report of the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands and Islands*, bearing their having appointed nine Ministers, twenty four Probationers, and twenty seven Catechists for Places where Popery and Ignorance does most abound, and proposing Overtures for carrying on a Reformation; also bearing an Account of their Distribution of 895 Copies of the *Confession of Faith, Larger and Shorter Catechisms*, in *Irish*, to Presbyteries where that Language is spoke. That the first Year's Royal Bounty had been compted for in Exchequer, and the Cashier discharged thereof. *Ibid.*

The Sentence of the Synod of *Perth and Stirling* in Mr. *Robert Robertson's* Case, is unanimously affirmed, and the Presbytery of *Dunkeld* are ordained to proceed

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to his Trials and Settlement, as Minister of *Kirkmichael*.
Ibid.

The Remainder of the Presbytery of *Glasgow*'s Proceedings in Professor *Simson*'s Case, and also his Answers to their Remarks upon his Answers to their References, and his Answers to their Remarks upon his Representation, were read, and the Professor was fully heard, and particularly upon a Declinature of the Members from the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, which the Assembly repelled, and appointed a Committee to consider what should be the Method of their Procedure, and bring in an Abstract of the Libel and Defences in distinct Heads; and a Sum of the Evidences, applying the several Heads of the Proof to the respective Articles of the Libel. *May 11th, post merid. Sess. 9.*

The Report of the Committee in Professor *Simson*'s Case approved, and the Cause continued. *May 12th, ante merid. Sess. 10.*

The Committee for revising the Commission-Book, having made their Report, the Book is attested in the ordinary Form, and the Commissioners receive the Thanks of the Assembly, for their Care and Diligence in prosecuting what was committed to them; and the Matters mentioned in the said Report, referred by the Commission to this Assembly, were remitted to the Committee for Overtures. *Ibid.*

The said Committee reported, that Copies of the Registers of Assembly, since the Year 1709, were prepared, and ready to be sent to the Libraries of the several Universities, according to the *Act 14. Assemb. 1712*, and the Copies sent in Obedience to the *Act 11th, Assemb. 1703*, to the several Synods, are ordered to be disposed of, as follows, *viz.* The Synod of *Lethian*'s Copies to be put in the Library of the University of *Edinburgh*; the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*'s, in the Library of the University of *Glasgow*; that of the Synod of *Fife*, in the University of *St. Andrews*; the Synod of *Aberdeen*'s, in the New College of *Aberdeen*; the Synod of *Dumfriess*, in the publick Library there; *Argyle*'s, in the Synodical Library at *Inverary*; *Perth*'s, *Galloway*'s, and *Merse* and *Teviotdale*'s, to be continued in their Clerks Hands, until further Orders; the Copies sent to the Synod of *Angus*, to be lodged in the publick Library in *Dundee*; *Murray*'s Copies, in the publick Library at *Inverness*; the Synod of *Ross* and *Sutherland*'s, in the Library at *Tayne*; *Orkney* and *Caithness*'s, in the Library at *Kirkwall*; and 'tis referred to the Commission, to use Diligence to recover the old Church Registers, that were

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were in the deceast *George Redpath's* Hands at *London*, and every Presbytery, in whose Bounds the Libraries sent from *London*, a little after the Revolution are settled, are enjoined betwixt and *September* next, to cause visit them, compare the Books with the Catalogues, and examine how the Rules made for Preservation of them, have been observed, and whether these Libraries are encreased or diminished, and to report to the next Synod, and to send a State of the said Libraries to the Commission, who are impowered to enquire thereinto, and prosecute the Embezlers or Losers of any of their Books, and their Representatives, according to Law; and Synods are required to notice the Diligence of Presbyteries herein, and record it in their Books. The Recommendation of the late Commission, for a Library to the new Presbytery of *Gairloch*, is renewed, and 'tis referred to the Commission to assist therein; and the Library now settled at *Air*, is appointed to be taken from that Place, and sent to the new Presbytery of *Longisland*. *Ibid.*

The Accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, with the Vouchers thereof, were brought in by the Committee for publick Accounts, and their Report concerning the same being read, the whole were laid upon the Table, to be perused by such of the Members as inclined to inspect the same. *Ibid.*

The Committee for revising the Commission-Book, reported an Account of the Diligence of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, as to the Processes for the Erection of new Parishes, recommended by former Assemblies, particularly, that in so far as concerned the Island of *Sky*, *Eg*, *Muck*, *Roum* and *Cuna*, and *Lewes*, the foresaid Processes are finished, and Decrees extracted thereon, and also for Stipends. That there are now Eight Ministerial Charges in the Presbytery of *Sky*, and Seven in the Presbytery of *Longisland*, and that there is a Process depending for two Parishes more in *North* and *South Uist* and *Bara*, that two new Parishes are erected in the Bounds of the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, and Glebes designed for the foresaid new Parishes, Money is laid on for building Churches and Manse thereto, That Letters have been wrote to the Presbyteries of *Inverness* and *Ross*, with relation to Parish Judges for suppressing Vice. That the whole Parishes in the Synod of *Glenelg* are planted, except one in the Presbytery of *Sky*, and three in the Presbytery of *Gairloch*. But Parishes there are still very large, and that the Presbytery of *Tongue* is all planted, except the Parish of *Affint*. And 'tis referred

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ferred to the Commission, and also to the Commission for Reformation of the *Highlands*, to receive Representations from Presbyteries, Ministers and Parishes in the foresaid Synod, and to use all proper Means for carrying on a Reformation, and the Diligence of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, is approved, and they are ordained to continue their Endeavours, for removing the Grievances of the foresaid Ministers upon the publick Charges, and to proceed in the other Processes mentioned in the said Report, formerly recommended. *Ibid.*

The Commission's Proceedings, with respect to the Third Volume of the Confession of Faith, and other Books authorized by this Church, is remitted to the Consideration of the Committee for Overtures. *Ibid.*

All the Members of Assembly are appointed to meet, by their Synods severally, to name Persons of their respective Synods, to be a Committee for nominating the Members of a Commission of this Assembly, and preparing the Draught of their Commission and Instructions. *Ibid.*

A Representation of the Committee of the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, in Name and by Order of the General Meeting thereof, is brought in, and 'tis remitted to the Committee for Overtures, to bring in an Overture by Way of Act, upon the Matters therein set forth, for the Assistance and Encouragement of that Society. *Ibid.*

A List of Persons in the several Synods is brought in, and the said Persons are appointed as a Committee, for drawing the Commission to be given by this Assembly, naming the Members thereof, and preparing Instructions for them. *May 12th, post merid. Sess. 11.*

The Second and Third Articles of the Libel against Professor *Simson*, his Articles of Exculpation, and Proof of both, are read and reasoned upon; and the further Consideration of them delayed until To-morrow. *Ibid.*

The said two Articles further reasoned upon, and committed. *May 13th, ante merid. Sess. 12.*

The Lord Commissioner intimated to the Assembly, His Majesty's Receipt of their Answer to His Gracious Letter, and his great Satisfaction, with the Expressions of Duty and Loyalty therein contained. *May 15th, ante merid. Sess. 12.*

The Laird of *Grant's* Absence excused. *Ibid.*

The Committee appointed to revise the Register of the Actings of the Managers of His Majesty's Bounty for the Year 1736, towards reforming the *Highlands*, having reported that they had managed their Trust with great

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great Care and Faithfulness, the Assembly approved their Proceedings, and gave them hearty Thanks for their good Service to this Church. *Ibid.*

Professor *Simson* is allowed to give in in Writing his Reasons against the Relevancy of the 2d and 3d Articles of the Libel, and the same, with the Act 11th, *Assem.* 1695, Act 9th, *Assem.* 1697, and Act 12th 1710 therein quoted, are read; and the said Reasons are recorded, and he and his Procurators fully heard. And the Assembly unanimously agreed, That Professor *Simson's* denying the Necessary-existence of our Lord Jesus Christ, in teaching his Students, is relevant to infer Censure. They likewise sustained, that his teaching his Scholars, That the Necessary-existence of our Lord Jesus Christ, was a Thing we know not, was relevant. They also found, that his teaching his Scholars, That the Independency of the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ is a Thing we know not, was relevant: And in like Manner they sustained, that his teaching that these Terms, *viz.* Necessary-existence and Independency were impertinent, and not to be used in talking of the Trinity, and that they were Philosophical Niceties we know nothing about, relevant to infer Censure. And the Assembly resolved, in the next Place, to consider the Professor's Grounds of Exculpation, as to these Articles found relevant, and the Proof of both, and to allow the Professor and his Procurators, to point out the Particulars upon which they are to insist, and to be heard thereupon; and he is allowed a Copy of the Articles now found relevant. *Ibid.*

The Professor's Grounds of Exculpation, pointed out by him and his Procurators, are read, and they fully heard upon them. And the Assembly found the Professor's Grounds of Exculpation advanced by him, and upon which Proof has been taken, not sufficient to elide the Propositions found relevant against him; reserving afterward to be considered, how far these Grounds, if found proven, may serve to alleviate, and the Consideration of the Proof, both of the Propositions found relevant, and of the Grounds of Exculpation that have been insisted on, is delayed until To-morrow Forenoon. *May* 15th, *post merid.* Sess. 14.

'Tis referred to the Commission, to call, cognosce and determine, in any Reference or Appeal that shall be brought before them, about planting the Parish of *Houhame*. *May* 16th, *ante merid.* Sess. 15.

Professor *Simson* and his Procurator, having in their Pleading, pointed out and read from the Presbytery of *Glas-*

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gow's Minutes, the several material Testimonies of the Witnesses, both upon the Propositions found relevant, and upon the Professor's Articles of Exculpation, and made Objections against the Proof of the foresaid Propositions, and illustrated the Proof of the Articles of Exculpation; the General Assembly, after due Consideration, did, by a great Majority, find, The Professor's denying the Necessary existence of our Lord Jesus Christ, in teaching his Students, proven, notwithstanding of the exculpatory Evidences offered.

Ibid.

Mrs. William Clarihew and John Hay their Absence excused. May 16th, *post merid.* Sess. 16.

After hearing the Professor and his Procurators upon their Reasons, for demanding a Proof of the Grounds of their general Exculpation, they found there was no Reason for allowing the said Proof; and therefore refused the same. And the 2d Proposition found relevant, *viz.* Professor Simson's teaching his Scholars, That the Necessary-existence of our Lord Jesus Christ was a Thing we know not, was found proven by a very great Plurality. And likewise the Proof of the 3d Proposition found relevant, *viz.* the Professor's teaching his Scholars, That the Independency of the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ is a Thing we know not, being considered, the Assembly unanimously found that the same was not proven; and appointed a Committee to prepare a State of the Proof of the 4th Proposition found relevant against To-morrow. *Ibid.*

A Narrative of Thomas Grant's Case is agreed to, and appointed to be read from the Pulpit of Canongate, and the Process is dismissed. *Ibid.*

A Committee is appointed to bring in a Nomination of Persons for managing His Majesty's Bounty for this Year, towards the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and making a Draught of their Commission. *Ibid.*

The Nomination of the Members of the Committee for Reformation, and Draught of their Commission is approved. May 17th, *ante merid.* Sess. 17.

A Committee is appointed to consider the Proof of the 4th Proposition found relevant against the Professor, and to apply the same. And the 4th Article of the Libel, exhibited against the Professor, was read, *viz.* That the Professor, in teaching, gave it as his own Opinion, That the Three Persons in the Trinity are not to be said to be either numerically or specifically One in Substance or Essence. But added, that they were so the same, as to be One God in Three Persons; but gave not any Name

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to, nor attempted to give any Notion of that Sameness or Oneness : And because of the Affinity of the 5th Article with this 4th, the same was also read, *viz.* That the Professor asserted, That the Three Persons were all indeed One God, and had all the same infinite Divine Perfections ; and added, that whether the Subject of these Perfections were different, was a Metaphysical Question, we need not determine. And the Professor's Defences against both being read, and the Professor and his Procurators fully heard thereupon, the Assembly did sustain the Professor's teaching, as his own Opinion, That the Three Persons of the Trinity are not to be said to be numerically One in Substance or Essence, relevant. *Ibid.*

All Claims for Money are appointed to be laid before the Committee for the publick Accompts, to be considered by them, and they are appointed to bring in a Report concerning the same, agreeable to the 7th Act of Assembly 1712, and 8th Act of Assembly 1719, made concerning the Disposal of the publick Money. *Ibid.*

Upon Report of the Committee for the publick Accounts, the Assembly found, that besides the Sum of 384 L. 6. sh. 10. d. *Sterling*, already stated by the Assembly, which does far exceed all that is at this Assembly's Disposal, there are diverse Processes in Dependence for new parishes, Stipends and Schools, according to former Orders, and that it will take a considerable Sum to finish the same ; and therefore, in a Consistency with the standing Rules, contained in the 8th Act of Assembly 1719, and Acts thereinmentioned, they could not allow any of the Claims for Money now demanded, until the Debts already stated, as above mentioned, be payed ; and they ordered the Procurator for the Church, to pay accordingly. And the Assembly referred the Case of Mr. *Archibald Bannantine*, Mr. *William Rose*, and Mr. *John Skeldoch*, to the Consideration of the Commission, and they likewise referred to their special Care, the Petition of Mr. *John McAul* Minister at *Whithorne*, against whom there is an Appeal entered before the House of Peers, by *William Agnew* of *Castlewig*, from a Decree of the Lords of Session, granting him *Fewel* ; and they empowered them, to do what they shall find proper, for supporting the Petitioner. And they referred all the Petitions with Relation to the Royal Bounty, to the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands. *May 18. ante merid. Sef. 18.*

The Consideration of the Proof of the 4th Article of the Libel against Professor *Simson* is delayed, and the Com-

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mittee named the 11 current *post meridiem* in this Af-
fair, are appointed to consider the whole of the Assem-
bly's Proceedings therein, both that which is past, and
what is yet to be done, and to bring in an Overture
thereupon. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Angus and Mearns, Aberdeen, Lothian*
and *Tweeddale, Merse and Teviotal, Galloway, and Perth*
and *Stirling*, are attested in the usual Form, but the
Books of the Synods of *Fife, Murray, Ross and Suther-*
land, Glenelg, Caithness, Orkney, Drumfries, Glasgow and
Air, and *Perth and Stirling*, not being brought up to
this Assembly, the Brethren from these Synods offer-
ed Excuses, which were admitted for this Year; but it
being found, that the Book of *Murray* has not been exa-
mined since the Year 1723, they were all appointed, and
in particular the Synod of *Murray*, was strictly enjoined
to bring their Books to be examined by the next As-
sembly. *Ibid.*

A Reference from the Synod of *Ross and Sutherland*,
of an Appeal by the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, from a
Sentence of the Presbytery of *Dingwall*, refusing to
transport Mr. *Donald M'Leod* from *Contane* to *Lochalsh*,
is remitted to the Commission, with Power to do there-
in as they find just. *Ibid.*

The Appeal of the Heritors, Elders, and Inhabitants of
Atholstanefoord, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Lothian*
and *Tweeddale*, upon a Reference of the Presbytery of
Haddington, concerning a Charge against Mr. *John*
Junkison Minister at *Atholstanefoord*, which the Synod
had found not proven, is remitted to the Commission,
to do therein as they shall find just. *Ibid.*

The several Matters contained in a Representation and
Petition of the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, are remitted to
the Commission, with Power to do therein as they
shall find just. *Ibid.*

A Petition of the Heritors of the Parish of *Contane*, for a
publick Collection, is refused, in regard the Grounds
therein set forth, were not sufficient for granting it.
Ibid.

The Re-erection of the Presbytery of *Aberlour*, is remit-
ted to the Commission, that they may do therein as
they find just. *Ibid.*

The Petition of Mr. *William Rose* Minister at *Kildonan*,
craving his Parish to be disjoined from the Presbytery
of *Tong*, is granted; but the Presbyteries of *Dornock*
and *Caithness* are appointed to continue to send Cor-
respondents to the Presbytery of *Tong*, until the next
Assembly. *Ibid.*

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The sending of Mr. *William Scobie* Preacher, to the Presbytery of *Tong*, is referred to the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands*, and the Consideration of the Remainder of a Petition from Mr. *William Rose*, is referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*

Petitions for Money from Mr. *William M'Beth* at *Olrig*, Mr. *Alexander Brodie* at *Reay*, Mr. *Robert Kirk* at *Dornock*, are refused, in respect of the fore said Report of the Committee for the Publick Accounts, which is approved. *Ibid.*

The Petition of Mr. *John Bane*, Commissioner from the Presbytery of *Dingwal*, for some of the publick Money, is refused; but it is referred to the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands*, to consider what relates to sending them a Preacher and Catechists. *Ibid.*

'Tis recommended to all such as are deficient in collecting for the Parish of *Noristoun*, yet to contribute for a Stipend to that Parish, and Presbyteries are appointed forthwith to cause intimate this Recommendation in deficient Parishes. *Ibid.*

The Commission is instructed to use all Diligence for making effectual Recommendations of former Assemblies, for charitable Contributions and Collections, and to see to the right Application thereof. *Ibid.*

The Petition of the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, for an itinerant Preacher for the Country of *Ranach*, is remitted to the Committee for the King's Bounty towards Reformation of the *Highlands*. *Ibid.*

The Case of Mr. *William M'Kie* Minister at *Balmaghie*, with respect to his Grievances in that Parish, is again committed. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accounts of Mr. *John Dundas* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, for a whole Year of His Majesty's Allowance to the Church, which was at the Disposal of the last Assembly 1726, for defraying the Charges of the Church for that Year, and discharging him and his Cautioner of his Intromissions, and appointing the Ballance of One hundred and seventeen Pounds One Shilling and five Sixth Parts of a penny Sterling Money, due to him, to be stated as an Article of Discharge in his next Accounts. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accounts of *Nicol Spence* Agent for the Church, his Intromissions with the Church's Money, and sustaining his Depursements on the Church's Affairs, and discharging him of his said Intromissions, and appointing the Ballance of One hundred and seventy six Pounds six Shillings nine Pennies and an half penny Sterling Money, due to him, to be paid with Interest,

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according to the Rules laid down by the Assemblies of this Church, and Commissions thereof. *Ibid.*

The Petition of the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, in Behalf of the Country of *Ranach*, is referred to the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands*, to do therein as they see cause. *Ibid.*

The special Circumstances of Mr. — *Giffard* Student in Divinity, who is now ready to pass Trials, are referred to the Commission, with Power to do therein as they find expedient. *Ibid.*

The Committee appointed in the Forenoon, to bring in an Overture about Professor *Simson's* Cate, being to make their Report, the Professor did, before the Report was made, give in to the Assembly, a Paper subscribed by him, wherein he humbly offers to the Assembly, for his Vindication, his Sentiments upon the Subject of the Articles of the Libel against him, that have been found relevant by the Assembly. 1^{mo}, That Christ is Necessarily-existent, in the common and ordinary Sense of that Word, as it signifies an Impossibility not to have been, which is one of the essential Perfections of the Divine Nature, that are equally common to all the Three Persons. 2^{do}, That Independency is to be affirmed of the Son of God, as it signifies an essential Perfection of his Divine Nature, which is equally common to all the Persons of the Trinity. 3^{tio}, That the Three Persons of the Trinity, are of One Substance, in Number, not taken in such a Sense as that Phrase is in common Use, applied to Creatures, which restricts it to one Person, but in a Sense importing the strictest Unity of the Godhead, in Opposition to a Plurality of Gods, yet consistently with their being Three Persons, in Opposition to one Person. And this Paper being read, a Protestation entered by Mr. *John Stirling* Principal of the College of *Glasgow*, before the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, asserting the University's Power to try and judge their own Members, was, at his Desire, read in Assembly, and ordered to be recorded, with the Declaration of his Adherence thereto. Then the Report of the Committee was read, and unanimously approved. And the Assembly having agreed to the Heads of a Commission to be given to a Committee about Professor *Simson's* Affair, a Committee was appointed to bring in a Nomination of the Members of this Committee, and to put their Commission in Form of an Act, according to what had been agreed upon, and to adject a Clause to it, appointing the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, to be assistant to the Committee in every Thing, which may

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may be proper for them, toward the expeding of this Matter; and the Members present from that Presbytery, for themselves, and in name of the other Brethren thereof, received the Assembly's Thanks, for the great Zeal, Diligence, and Faithfulness, they have shown, in managing this Trial of Professor *Simson's*, and for the singular Concern they have thereby testified for the Truth, and the good Service they have herein done to this Church; and the Members of the former Committee for Purity of Doctrine, did likewise get the Thanks of the Assembly in the same Manner. *May 18th, post merid. Sess. 19.*

Upon the Petition of the Town of *Bamff*, the Assembly recommends a Collection for helping to build the Harbour of *Bamff*. *Ibid.*

Upon the Petition of the Burgh of *Anstruther Easter*, the Assembly recommends a Collection, for helping to build an Harbour in that Town. *Ibid.*

The Overture about Planting of vacant Churches, especially *tanquam jure devoluto*, is referred to the Commission, to be by them fully prepared, and laid before the next Assembly. *Ibid.*

'Tis remitted to the Commission, to prepare for the next Assembly, the Overture concerning the Method of Preaching. *Ibid.*

The Recommendation of the last Assembly, with respect to the vacant Parish of *Aroquhar*, in the Presbytery of *Dumbarton*, is continued to this Commission; that they may assist all they can, to remove the Impediments that stand in the Way of the comfortable Planting of that Parish. *Ibid.*

The Commission is instructed, to deal earnestly with the honourable Magistrates of *Edinburgh*, to put the Assembly-house in some more decent and convenient Order, and report their Diligence to the next Assembly. *Ibid.*

- A Copy of Mr. *William Bowls*, Solicitor for the Stamp-duties, his Letter to the last Commission, complaining that Licences and Acts of Ordination, and Admission, are not written on stamped Paper, as the Law directs, is appointed to be sent to every Presbytery, that they may thereby be apprised of the Laws relating to the Stamp-duties, and may take Care to observe the same. *Ibid.*

The Recommendation of the last Assembly, with respect to Mr. *Alexander Scrimzeour* Professor of Divinity in *St. Andrews*, is continued; and the Commission is ap-
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- pointed to prosecute what the former Commission had begun as to that Matter. *Ibid.*
- The Overtures that were lying before the last Commission, concerning Schoolmasters, Pedagogues, and Governors of Youth, concerning the Provision of the Poor, who are not able to work, and for discouraging idle and vagrant Beggars, are referred to the Consideration of the Commission, and they are appointed to have them in Readiness, to be laid before the next Assembly. *Ibid.*
- The Case of the large Parish of *Kilmalie* in *Lochaber* is referred to the Commission, and two Assistants for the Minister of that Parish are allowed to be ordained. *Ibid.*
- The Ministers, Members of the Commission from the Presbytery, University and City of *Edinburgh*, are appointed to give Advice, as to the bringing in the Deficiencies of the Collections for the new Churches in *Strathnaver*, and for helping to build the Church for the Presbyterian Congregation in *New-York*, and the Collection for the French Protestants at *Hildburghausen*, and remitting the Sums for *New-York* and *Hildburghausen*, and securing and applying the Money collected for *Strathnaver*, in the Terms of the Recommendations of former Assemblies; and they are empowered to adjust all Accounts relative thereto, and to report their Diligence to the Commission, or next Assembly. *Ibid.*
- The Overture transmitted from the last Commission about the Graduation of Doctors of Divinity, is remitted to this Commission, to be prepared for the next Assembly. *Ibid.*
- 'Tis recommended to the Commission to provide Bursaries for Mrs. *Alexander Paip*, *James Brodie*, *Daniel Ross*, *James Robertson*, *Duncan M'Intosh*, *John Bethune*, *Evander Morison*, and *Alexander Farquharson*, Students in Divinity having the *Irish* Language, in the Terms of the Acts of Assembly. *Ibid.*
- 'Tis recommended to the Commission to assist the Magistrates of *Montrose* in obtaining an Augmentation of Stipend to Mr. *John Coupar* Minister there. *Ibid.*
- The Commission is empowered to appoint a National Fast; and to take that Matter under Consideration at their first Diet. *Ibid.*
- The Instruction given to the last Commission, concerning the new Edition of the Confession of Faith, and other Books authorized by this Church, is renewed; and the Commission appointed to consider the same, and do therein as they find Cause. *Ibid.*

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The Commission is appointed and instructed, to give the Presbytery of *Alfoord* all the Assistance they can, in settling Schools in their Bounds. *Ibid.*

The Consideration of the Synod of *Murray's* Representation, concerning the Parish of *Esle*, Town of *Garmouth*, and Places adjacent, is referred to the Commission, with Power to do therein as they shall see Cause. *Ibid.*

The Consideration of the Lady *Logan's* Petition is referred to the Commission, and they are empowered to receive in her Complaints against the Presbytery of *Stranrawer*, and do therein as they shall see Cause. *Ibid.*

'Tis referred to the Commission to do as they shall find just, in the Appeal entred by *Elizabeth Stevenson*, Spouse to *Andrew Pollock* Merchant in *Bieth*, against a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Irvine*, pronounced against her, in a Process for the Scandal of Adultery; and likewise from a Sentence of the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, approving the Judgment of the foresaid Presbytery. *Ibid.*

The Petition by Mr. *Thomas Mitchel* Minister at *Abernyte*, that the Commission might be empowered to judge in a Process against him, depending before the Presbytery of *Dundee*, was refused. *Ibid.*

The Case of *Anna Moodie*, Widow of Mr. *Alexander Mair* late Minister at *Hoy* and *Gramsey* in *Orkney*, is recommended earnestly to all the Presbyteries within the Synods of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, and *Glasgow* and *Air*, for a charitable Supply. *Ibid.*

The Consideration of the Case of Mr. *Dougald Bannantyne* Minister at *Kilmorie* in the Isle of *Arran*, is referred to the Commission, with Power to do therein as they shall find just. *Ibid.*

A Reference from the Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, with Respect to *Saturday's* and *Monday's* Markets, is remitted to the Commission's Consideration, that they may prepare some Overture thereanent to be laid before the next Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Assembly's Act and Commission concerning Professor *Simson* is intimated to him, and he was cited *apud acta* to attend the Committee appointed to consider his Matter, and also the next Assembly, to whom they are to make their Report, and the Nomination, contained in the foresaid Act, being read to him, he shewed his

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Willingness to obey the foresaid Appointments. *May 19th, Sess. ult.*

An Address to the King, and a particular Representation of Grievances from Papists, and the irregular Practices of the Nonjuror Prelatical Clergy unanimously approved. And the Lord Commissioner, at the Assembly's earnest Desire, was pleased kindly to undertake to transmit the foresaid Address to His Majesty. And the Moderator was appointed to send a Copy of their Address, together with the foresaid particular Representation, and a Copy of the Memorial of the Commission 1725, to the Lord Viscount *Townshend*, principal Secretary of State, to be laid before His Majesty. *Ibid.*

The Matters set forth in the Representation of Mr. *William M'Kie*, Minister at *Balmaghie*, are remitted to the Consideration of the Commission, with Power to do all they can, for removing of the said Mr. *M'Kie's* Grievances. *Ibid.*

'Tis recommended to the Presbytery of *Inverness*, to use their best Endeavours to procure Peace and Harmony in the Town and Parish of *Inverness*, before they concur with any Call thereto. And the Commission is instructed and empowered to judge in any Cause that shall be brought before them, for the Settlement of the said Parish; and any Process for that Effect is allowed to be brought by Reference or Appeal, either to the Synod or Commission, which of them soever shall happen first to meet; And in case of such Appeal, the inferior Judicatory is discharged to compleat a Settlement of that Parish, until the Cause be brought before the Commission, and that they have given Judgment therein. *Ibid.*

All former Recommendations, in Favours of the Synod of *Glenelg* and Ministers therein, are renewed, and the Commission is appointed to prosecute the same. *Ibid.*

The Commission is instructed to use all suitable Endeavours to obtain a Minister and Schoolmaster to be settled at *Maryburgh*, with a Stipend and Salary to them. *Ibid.*

Lists of Probationers and Students of Divinity were brought in and read, and the List of Probationers ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

Protestation is admitted at the Instance of the Synod of *Drumfries*, against the Parishoners of *Kirkbride*, for not insisting in their Appeal against the Sentence of the said Synod, for re-erecting the Parish of *Kirkconnell*; and annex-

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annexing the Parish of *Kirkbide* to the Parishes of *Sanguhar* and *Derisdeer*. *Ibid.*

Protestation is admitted at the Instance of the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, against several of the Parishoners of *Glasfoord*, for not insisting in their Appeal, against the Sentence of that Synod, appointing the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, with Concurrence of a Committee of the Synod, to ordain Mr. *Michael MTaggat* to be Minister of the said Parish. *Ibid.*

Protestation is admitted at the Instance of the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, and *William Campbell* Writer in *Mauchline*, against *Janet Kennedy*, late Servitrix to *Robert Richmond* sometime in *Mauchline*, for not insisting in her Appeal against the Sentence of the said Synod, absolving the said *William Campbell* from the Scandal of Fornication with her, wherewith she charged him. *Ibid.*

A Committee is appointed to revise the Minutes of this Assembly, and give Orders for printing such of the Acts thereof as are to be standing Rules, or are of publick Use. *Ibid.*

Intimation was made to the Committee for Professor *Simson's* Affair, to meet upon *Monday* at Nine in the Old *Kirk-Isle*; And to the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands*, to meet the same Day at Three in the Society's Hall. *Ibid.*

All Matters not discuss'd by the last Commission are referred to the Commission of this Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Minutes of this Day's *Sederunt* were read; the Minutes of preceeding *Sederunts* having been all formerly read at the respective Diets subsequent to each *Sederunt*. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech to the Assembly, and to His Majesty's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

The Lord Commissioner made a Speech in Return, and then the Assembly was concluded. *Ibid.*

F I N I S.

